

**REMARKS**

Claim 1-19 are pending. Claims 1 and 11 are amended. No new matter is presented.

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 11-13, 16, 17 and 19 remain rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Jonsson. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to clarify that the monitoring takes place during the entire connection period. Jonsson fails to teach or suggest this feature.

Jonsson teaches marking time slots at the input, detection at the output and derivation of the necessary delay for the output data during the connection set up. Thus, Jonsson fails to teach the claimed monitoring during the entire connection period. This is evidenced in view of claim 1 of Jonsson. Claim 1 of Jonsson recites that marking means (M) is disposed at the switching network input such that, during a connection establishment stage, the means achieves markings in a plurality of successive frames. Claim 1 then recites that the a scanning means (A0) is disposed at the output of the switching network. This makes it clear that Jonsson does not teach that “the monitoring of a correct time slot sequence is carried out during an entire connection period.”

For at least this reason, the features of claims 1-3, 6-9, 11-13, 16, 17 and 19 are not taught or suggested by Jonsson. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 5, 10, 14, 15 and 18 remain rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Jonsson in view of Cloutier. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4, 5, 10, 14 and 15 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies and the failure of Jonsson to teach that which the Examiner asserts. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

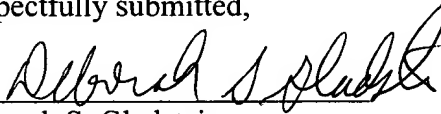
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is

determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122030600.

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Respectfully submitted,

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